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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Norio KOMINE et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Application No.: 10/614,200

Examiner: S. Vincent

Filed: July 8, 2003

Docket No.: 105648.01

For: OPTICAL MEMBER MADE OF SILICA GLASS, METHOD FOR  
MANUFACTURING SILICA GLASS, AND REDUCTION PROJECTION EXPOSURE  
APPARATUS USING THE OPTICAL MEMBER

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 30, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally  
elect Group II, claims 13-15, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-15 is sufficiently  
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would  
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully  
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without  
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an  
entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the  
merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis  
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in  
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by  
the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:JMS/brc

Date: January 26, 2005

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